



December 8, 2011

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Ex Parte Notice in WC Dockets 11-42, 03-109 and CC Docket 96-45

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Tuesday December 6, 2011, Rev. Jesse Jackson, founder and president of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, Dr. George Korn and Steven Smith, director of the Rainbow PUSH Telecommunications Project, met with Commissioner Clyburn and Angela Kronenberg regarding the above-referenced Lifeline and Link-Up proceedings. Cecilia Garcia and Amina Fazlullah of the Benton Foundation and Olivia Wein of the National Consumer Law Center (NCLC) also attended the meeting.

Rev. Jackson expressed his strong commitment to preserving and expanding the Low Income program to ensure that poor Americans have access to basic telephone service. We discussed the benefits of continued expansion of the Lifeline and Link-Up America programs for low income citizens and indicated our support for a transition to broadband, but only while maintaining easy access to basic wireless phone service for the neediest Americans throughout the transition. With the current low Lifeline participation rate as an example, it is clear that finding an economical way to reach the low income community with wireless broadband will be a project that will span a number of years. We cannot deprive low income citizens of basic wireless phone service in the meantime.

As detailed in the attached document, we discussed our position expressed in four key points. 1) With a program participation rate at approximately 32% of eligible households, we oppose capping the program. A cap is incompatible with the mission Congress intended for the program. 2) We oppose requiring Lifeline applicants to supply documentation of eligibility, such as "food stamp letters". It has been demonstrated that such a requirement places a hardship on many and limits enrollment. As a solution to documentation issues, we expressed our support for the development of the national, industry-wide, "de-duplication and verification database" currently being developed by Nexus and Tracfone. 3) We oppose the implementation of a minimum monthly fee for Lifeline service. This again places unnecessary economic hardship on the neediest citizens who participate in the program. 4) Finally, while we recognize modifications to Link-Up may be necessary, we oppose complete elimination of Link-Up and encouraged the

FCC to recognize that Link-Up is an important subsidy for those carriers who are most active in reaching the low-income community. Without it, many may be forced out of business leaving large parts of the low income community unserved.

Rev. Jackson also asked the commission to look carefully at the excessively high telephone rates that seem to be pervasive within prisons. The rates are exploitive and subject friends and family to excessive economic pressure as they attempt to communicate with incarcerated loved ones.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's rules, this letter is being filed electronically. If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact me directly.

Sincerely,

/s/ George Korn, Ph.D.

George Korn, Ph.D.

Advisor to Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.

Cc:

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